

April 5, 1989

LB 651

legitimate concerns brought by some of the public institutions and would urge you to adopt the committee amendments.

PRESIDENT: Senator Withem was closing on the adoption of the committee amendments. All those in favor of adopting the committee amendments please vote aye, those opposed no. Record, Mr. Clerk, please.

CLERK: 25 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on adoption of committee amendments.

PRESIDENT: The committee amendments are adopted.

CLERK: I have nothing further on the bill, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: Senator Hall, please.

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Mr. President and members. LB 651, as Senator Withem explained, was brought to the Education Committee by myself and it deals with the issue of the student financial aid program or SSIG, and with the adoption of the committee amendments, it basically, I think, alleviates many of the fears that the public institutions felt the bill contained. But the reason for introducing 651 was to clarify what was originally and currently is in statute with regard to this program. And if you had your statutes available and you could look at 85-980, the scholarship award program is spelled out there, and it's only about three or four pages long, and it deals with the definitions of what financial aid is, who would be eligible, resident students are defined, those types of things that spell out how the program operates. And all 651 does is clarify that language, especially the language that deals with the postsecondary education institutions that would be eligible and how the money would be spent. And the statute reads that those institutions must be located in Nebraska, they must be primarily engaged in instruction of students, they must satisfy the provisions of Nebraska law regarding the approval, licensure and accreditation of schools, so on and so forth. But in the very opening there where it says eligible postsecondary education institutions defined, it says eligible postsecondary educational institutions shall mean public or private institutions, and then it goes on to clarify that statement. This is an issue that, and I appreciate Senator Warner's comments because basically what he is saying is that we will put the fight off until Select File which is fine with me, and we might as well save a little